

which I am a member, will be celebrating its 40th reunion this summer in Vermillion, SD and will be paying tribute to former VHS Principal Cliff Manley with the unveiling of a handsome plaque in his honor.

Ms. Michelle Rydell, the editor of the Vermillion High School newspaper, "The Vermillionaire," recently wrote an excellent column in that newspaper about the class of 1965 and the extraordinary career of Cliff Manley. I ask that this article be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

[From the Vermillionaire]  
CLASS OF 1965 PAYS TRIBUTE  
(By Michelle Rydell)

"When we were young and green, you tried to bend us in the right direction. Now that we are old and bent, we look at the path you lit and say, 'Thank you, Mr. Manley, for helping us set our course. You made a difference.'"

It is with fond remembrance that the class of 1965 dedicates these words to former Vermillion High School principal, Clifford Manley. Manley was not simply an authoritative figure—he was a friend to all students. VHS alumni remember him as someone with a firm hand yet a soft heart. According to former students, he had a sense of humor that shone through even when he had to be firm with one of his students. He was very personable with both his peers and those under him. According to one class member, "Mr. Manley loved all of his students. Of course, there was still a degree of fear when we had to go to the principal's office. But he loved kids—he was a great man."

They also remember him as someone who was always present for extra-curricular activities and who loved watching sports. A former coach himself, Manley made it an objective to support not only the school but his students as well. It is perhaps for his dedication that he is most well-known. As principal, Manley did everything from teaching to coaching, and most importantly, serving as a mentor and role model for his students.

Manley's service and dedication is the reason the class of 1965 (which, incidentally, was the last class to graduate from the old Vermillion High School) has dedicated a plaque in remembrance of its gracious spirit. The plaque, featuring a picture of Manley set against a picture of the old high school and decorated with red birds to signify the class' ever-present Tanager pride, will be hung in the high school in the coming month.

The plaque had recently been hanging in the Sioux Valley Dakota Gardens, where Manley's wife Helen now lives. The plaque was displayed at the Dakota Gardens in order that Helen's children and friends might get the opportunity to see it during Christmas, but now that the holidays are over Helen is giving the plaque to the high school to display. The plaque will stay in the school as a lasting tribute to the man who not only taught his students as a biology teacher and principal, but a man who inspired them on a personal level as well.

VHS students will be some of the first people to see the plaque. The plaque is designated to be revealed at the class of 1965's 40th reunion, which will be occurring this coming summer. The reunion, therefore, will be not only be a time of fellowship for former students to rediscover their classmates, but it will also be a time for students to remember the principal who had such an impact on so many students' lives and take a moment to reflect on their appreciation for his service.

It is hard to find those special people in life who make such an impression that after forty years they are still considered memorable and special. Yet many agree that Manley was such a person. His dedication to Vermillion High School has been remembered and appreciated throughout the decades, and despite the fact that he has since passed away, he is not forgotten. His works live on through the school and through the lives of the many he has touched. It's not always easy to be a disciplinarian and friend, yet Manley managed to do both. As a result, he is remembered not only as a loving husband, father and grandfather, but also as a beloved principal, mentor and friend.●

#### PROFESSOR RON SHAFFER

● Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, it is with great sadness that I note the recent passing of Professor Ron Shaffer, a man who dedicated his career to helping communities discuss and plan their economic development.

Ron joined the faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1972, the same year he received a doctorate in agricultural economics, and he soon became a pillar of that great institution. For three decades, until his retirement from UW in 2001, Ron was one of the State's—if not the country's—leading experts on community economics and he wrote extensively on the subject. But, throughout his many years in academia, Ron always remained focused on the real world applications of his teaching. Economic development was not an abstract concept for him—it was a way to help people live better, happier, more productive lives. Particularly in the decade he spent as director of the University of Wisconsin Center for Community Economic Development, Ron devoted himself to bolstering the many and varied rural communities that are the backbone of Wisconsin.

Ron won many honors and accolades throughout his career. His work attracted international attention, and he was called upon by governments from Australia to Norway to advise on local economic development policies. In a particularly fitting move, the year he retired from UW, the National Rural Development Partnership established the Ron Shaffer Award, to be given annually for outstanding collaboration in rural America.

But I suspect that none of the honors he won mattered as much to Ron as the love and companionship of his family and friends. They loved his decency, his compassion, and his willingness to lead a patient ear. They admired him for the courage with which he handled his diagnosis of ALS, or Lou Gehrig's Disease. It was typical of Ron that he used his illness as an opportunity to advocate for others afflicted with this terrible disease—after all, he spent his life helping others. He will be sorely missed as a husband, a father, a friend, and a deeply good and giving man.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to

the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 9:55 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 841. An Act to require States to hold special elections to fill vacancies in the House of Representatives not later than 49 days after the vacancy is announced by the Speaker of the House of Representatives in extraordinary circumstances, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 1024(a), and the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House of Representatives to the Joint Economic Committee, in addition to Mr. SAXTON of New Jersey, appointed January 20, 2005: Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. PAUL of Texas, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. MCCOTTER of Michigan, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. HINCHEY of New York, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, and Mr. CUMMINGS of Maryland.

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 539. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide the protections of habeas corpus for certain incapacitated individuals whose life is in jeopardy, and for other purposes.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-1202. A communication from the Inspector General, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Audit Report Register for the period ending September 30, 2004; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1203. A communication from the Chief Executive Officer, Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Corporation's 2004 Annual Program Performance Report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1204. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of Veterans' Affairs, transmitting, the Department of Veterans Affairs'